



**KALAMAZOO
H U M A N E
S O C I E T Y**

October 29, 2013

Dear Chairman Hune and Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

The Kalamazoo Humane Society (KHS) has been serving people and animals in the Greater Kalamazoo Area since 1897. It our mission is to foster an environment of respect, responsibility, and compassion for all animals through education, pet population control and leadership.

One of the major services provided by the KHS is its' high volume low-cost spay/neuter clinic for use by people in southwest Michigan who can not or will not use a local veterinarian to have their pet spayed/neutered. In recent years the KHS has been called upon by organizations and individuals outside Kalamazoo County to spay/neuter dogs confiscated from large dog breeding facilities gone unregulated. In many cases these services are handled by the KHS at no charge to the rescue or pet owner because neither has the financial sources necessary to handle the large number of dogs involved. These services can be very draining financially as we are funded mainly by public donations.

In an effort to control and reduce the number of disreputable large scale dog operations breeding (those with more than 15 intact breeding females) we support SB 560. The KHS is asking for your support of the bill as well. This bill would require large-scale dog breeders to register with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and follow new guidelines to help ensure the humane treatment of the dogs and puppies in their facilities.

Together we can improve large scale dog operations in Michigan while preventing disreputable operations from other states from moving into Michigan.

Thank you for considering the Kalamazoo Humane Society's request for your support of SB560.

Sincerely,

Aaron Winters
Executive Director
awinters@kazoohumane.org